

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 IO-10 HEW-02 AID-05

FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

SAM-01 OMB-01 /094 W

----- 041516

P R 101249Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WAASHDC PRIORITY 2676

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON 0231

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUNNY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3434

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, SF, AO

SUBJ: SAG SEEKS HELP ON ANGOLAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

REF: A) PRETORIA 3211; (B) STATE 206297; (C) PRETORIA 3332

1. DFA DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN TELEPHONED LATE YESTERDAY TO SAY HE HAD BEEN CALLED IN BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER (WHO IS ALSO ACTING AS FOREIGN MINISTER WHILE MULLER IS IN GERMANY) AND ASKED TO CALL THE ANGOLAN SITUATION TO OUR ATTENTION AGAIN, NOTING THAT SA REFUGEE CAMPS ARE FULL AND THAT REFUGEES ARE "DAMMING UP ON THE ANGOLA-SWA BORDER," WHERE ABOUT 6,000 ARE BEING FED BY SA ARMED FORCES. VAN DALSEN WAS INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT SHOULD ANY POSSIBILITY EXIST OF AIRCRAFT BEING SENT IN TO TRANSPORT THESE PEOPLE TO PORTUGAL FROM EITHER SOUTHERN ANGOLA OR SWA, SAG WOULD BE GLAD TO MAKE LANDING FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT ANDANGUA, GROOTFONTEIN, OR WINDHOEK.

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WM VAN DALSEN PRESENTED PROBLEM AS HUMANITARIAN ONE, NOTING THAT

REFUGEES WERE SHORT OF FOOD AND HOUSING. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF EXACT NUMBER OF LOCATION BUT ASSUMED MOST WERE ACTUALLY ON ANGOLAN SIDE OF BORDER SOMEWHERE NORTH OF OSHIKANGO.

3. VAN DALSEN WAS AWARE THAT USG IS PROVIDING TWO PLANES TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES OUT OF NOVA LISBOA, EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF USG DESIRE GIVE PRIORITY TO REFUGEES IN AREAS OF MOST IMMEDIATE DANGER, AND VOLUNTEERED APPRECIATION OF FACT THAT ANGOLA-SWA BORDER WAS NOT THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THERE WAS A SERIOUS ANGOLAN REFUGEE PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS IT OBVIOUS SAG, WHILE NOT PUTTING ITS APPROACH IN FORM OF DIRECT REQUEST, IS ESSENTIALLY REPEATING APPEAL FOR HELP WHICH IT MADE ON AUGUST 25 (REF A). WE HAVE LEARNED THAT VAN DALSEN MADE SIMILAR CALL TO BRITISH EMBASSY AFTER CALLING US.

4. COMMENT: ACCOMMODATING REFUGEE FLOW IS APPARENTLY BECOMING PHYSICALLY AS WELL AS FINANCIALLY DIFFICULT FOR SAG. MANY OBSERVERS ASSUME THAT IT ALSO REPRESENTS POLITICAL PROBLEM IN THAT MANY REFUGEES WISH TO STAY IN SA RATHER THAN GO ON TO PORTUGAL, WHILE SAG UNWILLING TO RELAX IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS. IN THIS REGARD IT UNCLEAR WHETHER PILE-UP ON ANGOLA SIDE OF BORDER IS BECAUSE SAG IS APPLYING RESTRICTIONS TO ADMISSION OR BECAUSE REFUGEES THEMSELVES DO NOT WISH TO COME ACROSS WITHOUT ASSURANCES THEY CAN STAY IN SA MORE OR LESS INDEFINITELY. SOME MAY SIMPLY BE CAMPING AT SAFE EXIT POINT UNTIL IT IS CLEARER WHETHER THEY SHOULD TAKE CHANCE ON RETURNING TO HOMES IN ANGOLA OR COMMIT THEMSELVES TO GO ON TO PORTUGAL SINCE CHANCES ARE AGAINST MANY STAYING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. NATURE OF VAN DALSEN'S APPROACH AND HIS COMMENT (REF C) ON OUR RESPONSE (REF B) TO SAG'S EARLIER REQUEST WOULD INDICATE DFA IS NOT VERY SANGUINE ABOUT GETTING US ASSISTANCE. NONETHELESS IT CLEAR THAT REFUGEE SITUATION BECOMING MORE SERIOUS AND SAG WOULD WELCOME ANY ADVICE OR INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON RESPONSE WE SHOULD MAKE TO THIS SECOND REQUEST. WOULD DEPT CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO SUGGEST THAT SAG CONSULT UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, ICRC, OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES? OYBJECTIVELY, WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ASSIST REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA?

BOWDLER

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, EVACUATION PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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